(d) whether in contravention of the provisions of official language Act, dozens of equipments providing facility of working in English/Roman language have been installed and now the use of bilingual equipments is talked about but it is not known as to who, why, where, how and for whom it will be used while all the files are maintained only in English/Roman language;

(e) whether all the Ministries send their letters to Hindi speaking States in English and the Hindi speaking States are compelled to send their plans and budget in English language; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The work of the Department of Official Language like other Deptts. of MHA is executed by the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. Generally, the tenure of Hindi Salahakar Samitties is three years. After expiry of the tenure, these are re-constituted. Concerned Ministries are required to hold four meetings in a year. Directions are issued from time to time to the Ministries for holding meeting in time.

(b) Two meetings of the Hindi Salahakar Samittee were held during the year 1995.

(c) In the Annual Programme, different targets are fixed for various items relating to progressive use of Hindi. Targets have been achieved in respect of some items and various Deptts. of Govt. of India are making efforts to achieve the targets of such items for which the same have not been achieved.

(d) There are standing orders to the offices of Central Govt. that all electronic equipments being purchased by the Offices, should have the facility of working in Devnagari script in addition to Roman script. Wherever the violation of these orders come to notice, the concerned offices are reminded to follow the orders. The use of these equipments is necessary for achieving the targets fixed in the Annual Programme.

(e) and (f). Plans and Budget proposals are prepared bilingually. No instance of compelling any Hindi speaking State to send the information relating to these only in English by any Ministry has come to the notice of the Government.

[English]

National Human Rights Commission

770. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has asked the Chief Ministers of States and Union Territories to take steps to pass an appropriate resolution in their respective States authorising parliamentary legislation on prisons;

(b) if so, the main points referred to by the National Human Rights Commission in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government have considered the views expressed by the Human Rights Commission in this regard;

(d) if so, whether Union Government are considering to convene a meeting of State Home Ministers to discuss the issue; and

(e) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be convened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission forwarded a copy of Model Prison Bill drafted by the Core Group set up by the Commission to Chief Ministers of State Governments on 29.8.96 requesting that the appropriate resolution be passed by the State Legislature authorising the Parliamentary Legislation of Prisons in public interest in the light of the fact that "Prison" is a matter in the List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution and Parliament will have no authority to legislate unless action under Article 252 of the Constitution is taken by the States.

(c) to (e). Government have received a reference from the National Human Rights Commission in this regard only on 21.11.96. The matter is under examination.

[Translation]

Loans to Poor Persons

771. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of poor persons provided loans by the Scheduled Caste, Women and Other Backward Classes Corporations during 1994-95 and the current year;

(b) the total amount disbursed as loan during the financial year 1995-96 and the current financial year, and

(c) whether the amount has actually been utilised by the poor persons for the purchase of those articles for which the same was meant?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) The amount of loan disbursed and poor persons benefitted during 1995-96 and the current year is as follows :

1. National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation

Year	Loan disbursed (Rs. in lakhs)	Persons benefitted
1995-96	2335.92	10071
1996-97 (upto 20-11-96)	1380.79	698

2. Scheduled Castes Development Corporation

Year	Loan disbursed (Rs. in lakhs)	Persons benefitted
1995-96	54202.30	396930
1996-97	(Figures will be available only during 1997-98)	

(c) Yes. Sir.

[English]

Schemes for Aged Persons

772. SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes and programmes to be launched by the Government on the World Elders Day;

(b) whether any habitation and travel facilities are proposed to be provided to the destitute aged persons; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to provide these facilities to the destitute aged women?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Employment to Disabled Unemployed Youth

773. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of unemployed youth among the disabled and non-disabled;

(b) the steps being taken to absorb the disabled persons in the gainful employment;

(c) whether remuneration paid to the disabled are less than that or paid to their counterparts in the non-disabled category;

(d) if so, the measures taken to rectify the imbalance;

(e) whether there is any proposal for providing special benefits, privileges or concessions to the relatives of the disabled; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) According to the information furnished by Directorate General of Employment and Training, out of 3,66,91,500 persons in the Live Register of Employment Exchanges 32,91,700 have been placed under employment upto 31.12.94. The corresponding figures for the disabled persons are 3,40,304 and 52,859 respectively. The respective percentages of unemployment among the disabled and non-disabled are 84.47 and 91.03.

(b) Statment - I showing the steps being taken to absorb disabled persons in the gainful employment is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). No information is available. However, there is no provision of fixing different rates for disabled persons under Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

(e) and (f). Statement - II containing brief write-up on such concessions by the Central Government is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT - I

(i) In terms of Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, every appropriate Government shall appoint in every establishment such percentage of vacancies not less then three per cent for persons or class of persons with disability of which one per cent each shall be reserved for persons suffering from - (i) blindness or low vision; (ii) hearing impairment; (iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy, in the posts identified for each disability. Even before the Act came into force, 3 per cent vacancies have been reserved for physically handicapped, 1 per cent each for the physical, hearing and orthopaedically handicapped in Group C and D posts in Central Government and Public Sector Undertakings. Similar reservations have been given by some State Govts. Apart from this, age concession and relaxation in medical standards are also available to handicapped candidates.

(ii) 41 Special Employment Exchanges and 47 Special Cells for the handicapped persons have been set up exclusively to help the handicapped in getting gainful employment. Besides, the Normal Employment Exchange also help the handicapped persons in finding suitable employment.

(iii) Seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled, arrange their training and place them in employment.

(iv) Self-employment is promoted through the following :

(a) Allotment of vending stalls, kiosks and petty shops;

(b) Loans from Nationalised Banks at nominal rates of interest under differential Rate of Interest Scheme;